



Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination

for the

Sligo Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2030

This determination whether the Sligo Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2030 to be adopted would or would not necessitate the undertaking of Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

An accompanying Screening for AA Report has been prepared to inform this determination. As identified in that report:

- Implementing the Sligo 2030 Plan will involve Sligo County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans setting out public policy for sustainable development, including that relating to the economy, communities, infrastructure, land use tourism and environmental protection and environmental management.
- The Plan is situated alongside this hierarchy of statutory documents that has been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent; the Plan is not binding on Sligo County Council when undertaking its functions with respect to whether or not to grant development consent for a project.
- The Plan fully aligns with the provisions of the existing National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040, National Climate Action Plan 2023, Housing For All 2021, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 and the current County Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents (and any subsequent revisions to these documents), including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. Furthermore, Sligo County Council has confirmed that the provisions of the Plan to be adopted have already been provided for under existing plans/strategies/etc. that have already been subject to SEA/AA and/or Screening for SEA/AA.

- In order to be realised, projects included in the Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sectors) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.
- Following the source-pathway-receptor model, the relevant attributes of European sites were assessed. The Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes.
- The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed through the existing planning framework (which has been subject to Appropriate Assessment processes) with which the Plan and all lower tier plans/projects must comply. In addition, any future projects, plans etc. that may arise will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.
- It is concluded that the Plan to be adopted will not give rise to any effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes, and projects etc. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is not required.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the "Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report". The undersigned hereby determines that the Sligo Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2030 to be adopted will not give rise to any effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes, and projects etc. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is not required.

Signatory:


Dorothy Clarke

Date:

24/03/2023.